



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/025,396	12/18/2001	Bradley S. Emalfarb	254.00069	4852

7590

02/25/2004

WOOD, PHILLIPS, VAN SANTEN, CLARK & MORTIMER
SUITE 3800
500 WEST MADISON STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60661

EXAMINER

GORDON, RAEANN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3711

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2004

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/025,396

Applicant(s)

EMALFARB, BRADLEY S.

Examiner

Raeann Gorden

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 30 and 31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20-25 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 26-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 18, the claimed range for the immersion time is not clear. As currently written, it is not clear if the immersion time is less than 180 days or at least two days. Claim 8, the range for the time period is not clear. Claim 18 does not further limit claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-19, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Finkel (2002/0094885). Regarding claim 1, Finkel discloses a golf ball comprising a spherical outer surface wherein the surface includes a material that degrades when

Art Unit: 3711

exposed to water for a period of less than three days, such as a biodegradable resin.

The golf ball inherently changes shape and diameter once the shell/surface degrades

(pg. 5, 55;pg. 6, 71). Regarding claim 2, the golf ball may include dimples (pg. 6, 73).

Regarding claim 3, the golf ball includes a core and cover (pg. 6, 71). Regarding claim

4, figure 3B shows the cover thickness less than one third of the diameter of the entire

golf ball. Regarding claim 5, the cover/outer shell may be made entirely from the

degradable material, resin. Regarding claim 6, the outer shell may include fillers (pg. 6,

68). Regarding claim 7, the material may include resins or polyesters (pg. 6, 67).

Regarding claim 8, the time period is three days or less. Regarding claim 9, the

material will change shape and diameter by melting (abstract). Regarding claim 10,

Finkel discloses a golf ball comprising a spherical outer surface wherein the surface

includes a material that degrades when exposed to water for a period of less than three

days, such as a biodegradable resin. The golf ball inherently has a different

performance characteristic once the shell/surface degrades (pg. 5, 55;pg. 6, 71).

Regarding claim 11, the material will change shape and diameter by melting (abstract).

Regarding claim 12, the golf ball may include dimples (pg. 6, 73). Regarding claim 13,

the golf ball includes a core and cover (pg. 6, 71). Regarding claim 14, figure 3B shows

the cover thickness less than one third of the diameter of the entire golf ball. Regarding

claim 15, the cover/outer shell may be made entirely from the degradable material,

resin. Regarding claim 16, the outer shell may include fillers (pg. 6, 68). Regarding

claim 17, the material may include resins or polyesters (pg. 6, 67). Regarding claim 18,

the time period is three days or less. Regarding claim 19, Finkel discloses a golf ball

comprising a plurality of layers made from a material that degrades when exposed to water for a period of less than three days, such as a biodegradable resin. The golf ball performance characteristics will inherently change once the layers degrades (pg. 6, 65). Regarding claims 28 and 29, Finkel discloses a golf ball comprising a plurality of layers made from a material that degrades when exposed to water for a period of less than three days, such as a biodegradable resin. The golf ball performance characteristics will inherently change once the layers degrades (pg. 6, 65). The presence of a capillary is moot since the capillary may be completely filled.

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida et al (6,315,683). Applicant claims a hollow golf ball comprising a capillary that is at least partially filled. Yoshida discloses a golf ball with a hollow core. The presence of a capillary is moot since the capillary may be completely filled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-25 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

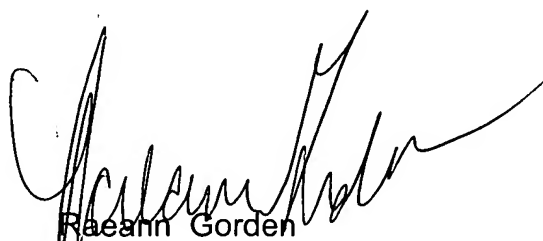
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raeann Gorden whose telephone number is 703-308-8354. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich can be reached on 703-308-1513. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Raeann Gorden
Examiner
Art Unit 3711

Rg
February 17, 2004